THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Central Board of Trustees, EPF had recommended for setting up of a Housing Finance Fund for the EPF Subscribers. The recommendations of the Board were examined and the EPF Organisation was asked to furnish the financial implications and other details of the proposal. Now the EPF Organisation has reported that in view of the changed liberalised economic environment, the proposal relating to the Housing Finance Fund needs to be re-looked. As the EPF Organisation has not taken any final decision in the matter, the question of delay/non-implementation of the Scheme by the Govt. Does not arise.

Impact of new U.S. Labour Laws on Indian Professionals

3177. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the new U.S. Labour Laws will hit hard the Indian Professionals; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

औद्योगिक इकाइयों का बंद होना

3178. **प्रो. राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा**: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में कौन-कौन से औद्योगिक एकक बंद पड़े हैं और कौन-कौन से बंद होने के कगार पर है तथा वे कहां-कहां स्थित हैं;

(ख) ये एकक कब से बंद पड़े हैं अथवा बंद होने के कगार पर है तथा इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) ऐसे औद्योगिक एककों को पुन: चालू करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं;

(घ) उक्त एककों के बन्द होने के कारण कितने कर्मचारी और कामगार बेरोजगार हो गए हैं; और

(ङ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार अथवा राज्य सरकार द्वारा इन एककों के कामगारों को कोई राहत-राशि प्रदान की जा रही है ?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी. ए. संगमा) : (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Redeploying redundant beedi workers

3179. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in cooperation with State Governments will provide alternate employment to the persons engaged in the beedi industry;

(b) whether Government have drawn up plans for Centre-State cooperation in re-deploying the redundant beedi workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) It is felt that there is no significant threat of un-employment among beedi workers in the country at present.

(b) and (c) The Government are already implementing a number of employment and training related schemes like IRDP, JRY, TRYSEM, DWCRA, Employment Assurance Scheme (in backward tribal blocks) for poorer sections in rural areas. The Government have recently decided to set up separate Departments for dealing with employment and poverty alleviation of rural and urban poor.